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United States Department of State
Bureau of Intelligence and Research

Intelligence Research Report

IRR-52 – November 30, 1992

Diplomatic Relations of the People's Republic of China and Taiwan¹

Summary

As of November 15, 1992, China recognized and maintained diplomatic relations with 150 nations.² Since October 1991 China has exchanged diplomatic recognition with Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Croatia, Georgia, Israel, Kazakhstan, South Korea, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Russia, Slovenia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, and Uzbekistan. It has severed relations with Niger.

Taiwan currently is recognized by 29 nations, the same number as in October 1991. Most of the countries recognizing Taiwan are in Central America and the Caribbean, although South Africa and The Holy See also recognize Taiwan. In 1992 Niger recognized Taiwan; the Central African Republic did so in 1991. Taiwan severed relations with South Korea in August 1992 when South Korea recognized China.

¹ This report is an update of IRR-35, "Diplomatic Relations of the People's Republic of China and Taiwan," October 29, 1991.

² China recognized the self-declared "state" of Palestine and established diplomatic relations with it on its declaration of "statehood" in November 1988. The US does not recognize the self-declared "state" of Palestine.

China announced in April 1992 that it recognized "the continuity of Yugoslavia." The US view is that the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia has dissolved and none of the successor states represents its role continuation.

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- 2 -

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- 3 -

A. Nations having diplomatic relations with China (150) (dates of recognition/establishment of relations in parentheses)

| | |
|--|--|
| Afghanistan (Jan. 1950/Jan. 1955) | Brunei (Sept. 1991/Sept. 1991) |
| Albania (Nov. 1949/Nov. 1949) | Bulgaria (Oct. 1949/Oct. 1949) |
| Algeria (Dec. 1958/July 1962) ³ | Burkina (Sept. 1973/Oct. 1973) |
| Angola (Jan. 1983/Jan. 1983) | Burma (Dec. 1949/June 1950) |
| Antigua and Barbuda (Jan. 1983/Jan. 1983) | Burundi (Dec. 1963/Oct. 1971) ⁶ |
| Armenia (Dec. 1991/Apr. 1992) ⁴ | Cambodia (July 1958/May 1970) ⁷ |
| Argentina (Feb. 1972/Aug. 1972) | Cameroon (Mar. 1971/Mar. 1971) |
| Australia (Dec. 1972/Aug. 1973) | Canada (Oct. 1970/Oct. 1970) |
| Austria (May 1971/May 1971) | Cape Verde (Apr. 1976/Oct. 1976) |
| Azerbaijan (Dec. 1991/Apr. 1992) | Chad (Nov. 1972/Mar. 1973) |
| Bahrain (Apr. 1989/Apr. 1989) | Chile (Dec. 1970/Jan. 1971) |
| Bangladesh (Oct. 1975/Jan. 1976) | Colombia (Feb. 1980/June 1980) |
| Barbados (May 1977/Apr. 1978) | Comoros (Nov. 1975/Oct. 1976) |
| Belarus (Dec. 1991/Jan. 1992) | Congo (Feb. 1964/Feb. 1964) |
| Belgium (Oct. 1971/Apr. 1971) | Côte d'Ivoire (Mar. 1983/Mar. 1983) |
| Benin (Nov. 1964/Dec. 1972) ⁵ | Croatia (Apr. 1992/May 1992) |
| Bolivia (July 1985/July 1985) | Cuba (Sept. 1960/Sept. 1960) |
| Botswana (Jan. 1975/Apr. 1975) | Cyprus (Jan. 1972/June 1972) |
| Brazil (Aug. 1974/Dec. 1974) | Czechoslovakia (Oct. 1949/Oct. 1949) |

³ China recognized the Provisional Algerian Government in December 1958 and the Republic of Algeria in July 1962.

⁴ China recognized the independence of the former Soviet republics in an official statement on December 25, 1991. (See also Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Russia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, and Uzbekistan.)

⁵ Formerly Dahomey. China recognized Dahomey in November 1964. Relations were severed in January 1966 and reestablished in December 1972.

⁶ Burundi was recognized initially in December 1963. Relations were suspended in January 1965 and reestablished in October 1971.

⁷ China in December 1991 opened a mission in Phnom Penh accredited to the Supreme National Council.

UNCLASSIFIED

- 4 -

Denmark (Jan. 1950/May 1950)
Djibouti (Jan. 1979/Mar. 1980)
Ecuador (Jan. 1980/July 1980)
Egypt (May 1956/May 1956)
Equatorial Guinea (Oct. 1970/Dec. 1970)

Estonia (Sept. 1991/Sept. 1991)
Ethiopia (Dec. 1970/Dec. 1970)
Fiji (Nov. 1975/Apr. 1976)
Finland (Jan. 1950/Oct. 1950)
France (Jan. 1964/Jan. 1964)

Gabon (Apr. 1974/June 1974)
Gambia, The (Dec. 1974/Jan. 1975)
Georgia (Dec. 1991/June 1992)
Germany (Oct. 1972/Oct. 1972)⁸
Ghana (July 1960/Feb. 1972)⁹

Greece (June 1972/Nov. 1972)
Guinea (Oct. 1959/Oct. 1959)
Guyana (Feb. 1972/June 1975)
Hungary (Oct. 1949/Oct. 1949)
Iceland (Dec. 1971/May 1972)

India (Dec. 1949/Aug. 1950)
Indonesia (Apr. 1950-Aug. 1990)¹⁰
Iran (Aug. 1971/Aug. 1971)
Iraq (July 1958/Aug. 1958)
Ireland (June 1979/Feb. 1980)

Israel (Jan. 1992/Jan. 1992)¹¹
Italy (Nov. 1970/Nov. 1970)
Jamaica (Nov. 1972/Mar. 1973)

Japan (Sept. 1972/Sept. 1972)
Jordan (Apr. 1977/June 1977)
Kazakhstan (Dec. 1991/Jan. 1992)
Kenya (Dec. 1963/Jan. 1964)
Kiribati (June 1980/June 1980)

Korea, North (Oct. 1949/Oct. 1949)
Korea, South (Aug. 1992/Aug. 1992)
Kuwait (Mar. 1971/Oct. 1971)
Kyrgyzstan (Dec. 1991/Jan. 1992)
Laos (June 1962/Sept. 1962)

Lebanon (Nov. 1971/Nov. 1971)
Libya (Apr. 1978/Aug. 1978)¹²
Lithuania (Sept. 1991/Sept. 1991)
Luxembourg (Nov. 1972/Dec. 1973)
Madagascar (Nov. 1972/Jan. 1973)

Malaysia (Nov. 1971/May 1974)
Maldives (Oct. 1972/Oct. 1972)
Mali (Oct. 1960/Oct. 1960)
Malta (Jan. 1972/June 1972)
Marshall Islands (Nov. 1990/Nov. 1990)

Mauritania (July 1965/July 1965)
Mauritius (Apr. 1968/May 1972)
Mexico (Feb. 1972/May 1972)
Micronesia, Federated States of
(Aug. 1989/Aug. 1989)
Moldova (Dec. 1991/Jan. 1992)

Mongolia (Oct. 1949/Oct. 1949)
Morocco (Oct. 1958/Nov. 1958)

⁸ China exchanged recognition with the German Democratic Republic in October 1949 and with the Federal Republic of Germany in October 1972.

⁹ Ghana was recognized in July 1960. Relations were suspended in November 1966 and resumed in February 1972.

¹⁰ Diplomatic relations with Indonesia were established in April 1950 but were frozen in 1965. Relations were resumed in August 1990.

¹¹ Israel recognized China in January 1950 but was not recognized by China until January 1992.

¹² Libya unilaterally announced recognition of China in 1971, but formal relations were not established until the representatives of Taiwan departed Tripoli in 1978.

UNCLASSIFIED

- 5 -

Mozambique (June 1975/June 1975)
 Namibia (Mar. 1990/Mar. 1990)
 Nepal (Aug. 1955/Aug. 1955)
 Netherlands (Mar. 1950/Mar. 1954)
 New Zealand (Dec. 1972/Mar. 1973)
 Nigeria (Feb. 1971/Feb. 1971)

Norway (Jan. 1950/Oct. 1954)
 Oman (Dec. 1978/Dec. 1978)
 Pakistan (Jan. 1950/May 1951)
 Papua New Guinea (Oct. 1976/Oct. 1980)
 Peru (Aug. 1971/Nov. 1971)
 Philippines (June 1975/Sept. 1975)

Poland (Oct. 1949/Oct. 1949)
 Portugal (Feb. 1979/May 1979)
 Qatar (July 1988/July 1988)
 Romania (Oct. 1949/Oct. 1949)
 Russia (Dec. 1991/Dec. 1991)
 Rwanda (Nov. 1971/May 1972)

San Marino (May 1971)¹³
 Sao Tome and Principe (July 1975/Apr. 1976)
 Saudi Arabia (July 1990/July 1990)
 Senegal (Dec. 1971/May 1972)
 Seychelles (June 1976/Mar. 1977)
 Sierra Leone (July 1971/July 1971)

Singapore (Oct. 1990/Oct. 1990)
 Slovenia (Apr. 1992/May 1992)
 Somalia (Dec. 1960/Dec. 1960)
 Spain (Mar. 1973/June 1973)

Sri Lanka (Jan. 1950/Feb. 1957)
 Sudan (Dec. 1958/Dec. 1958)
 Suriname (May 1976/Jan. 1977)
 Sweden (Jan. 1950/May 1950)
 Switzerland (Jan. 1950/Sept. 1950)
 Syria (Aug. 1956/Aug. 1956)

Tajikistan (Dec. 1991/Jan. 1992)
 Tanzania (Oct. 1964/Oct. 1964)¹⁴
 Thailand (July 1975/Sept. 1975)
 Togo (Sept. 1972/Nov. 1972)
 Trinidad and Tobago (June 1974/Apr. 1975)
 Tunisia (Jan. 1964/Oct. 1971)¹⁵

Turkey (Aug. 1971/Aug. 1971)
 Turkmenistan (Dec. 1991/Jan. 1992)
 Uganda (Oct. 1962/Oct. 1962)
 Ukraine (Dec. 1991/Jan. 1992)
 United Arab Emirates (Nov. 1984/Nov. 1984)
 United Kingdom (June 1950/June 1954)

United States (Jan. 1979/Mar. 1979)
 Uruguay (Feb. 1988/Feb. 1988)
 Uzbekistan (Dec. 1991/Jan. 1992)
 Vanuatu (Mar. 1982/Mar. 1982)¹⁶
 Venezuela (June 1974/Sept. 1974)
 Vietnam (Jan. 1950/Jan. 1950)¹⁷
 Western Samoa (Nov. 1976/Nov. 1976)
 Yemen (Aug. 1956/Sept. 1956)¹⁸
 Zaire (Nov. 1972/Jan. 1973)
 Zambia (Oct. 1964/Oct. 1964)
 Zimbabwe (Apr. 1980/June 1980)

¹³ San Marino has only consular-level relations with China.

¹⁴ China recognized Tanganyika in December 1961, Zanzibar in January 1964, and Tanzania in October 1964.

¹⁵ Relations with Tunisia were suspended in 1967 and reestablished in October 1971.

¹⁶ Vanuatu and Taiwan signed a joint communique in September 1992 agreeing to recognize each other "officially," but they have not established diplomatic relations. Vanuatu and China continue to maintain diplomatic relations.

¹⁷ Prior to the July 1975 formation of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, China had separate relations with North Vietnam (January 1950) and the Provisional Revolutionary Government of South Vietnam (June 1969).

¹⁸ China established diplomatic relations with the Yemen Arab Republic in September 1956 and with the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen in January 1968.

UNCLASSIFIED

- 6 -

B. Notes on special cases

1. **Bhutan** recognized China based on its UN vote in October 1971 to admit China and expel representatives of Taiwan. Bhutan and China have no official relations, however.
2. **Belize** recognized China in February 1987 and maintained relations until October 1989. Following Belize's recognition of Taiwan in October 1989, China "severed" ties with Belize.
3. **Bosnia-Herzegovina** has not (?) recognized China, but China announced on June 25, 1992, that it would "recognize the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina at an appropriate time."
4. The **Central African Republic**, formerly the Central African Empire, recognized China in September 1964. Relations were suspended in January 1966 and resumed in August 1976. Following the CAR's recognition of Taiwan in July 1991, China "suspended" relations with the CAR.
5. **Grenada** recognized China in October 1985 and maintained relations until August 1989. Following Grenada's recognition of Taiwan in July 1989, China "severed" ties with Grenada.
6. **Guinea-Bissau** recognized China in April 1974 and maintained relations until May 1990. Following Guinea-Bissau's recognition of Taiwan in May 1990, China "severed" ties with Guinea-Bissau.
7. **Latvia** recognized China in September 1991 and maintained relations until February 1992. Following Latvia's establishment of consular relations with Taiwan in January 1992, China withdrew its Embassy from Latvia "for the time being."
8. **Lesotho** recognized China in April 1983 and maintained relations until April 1990. Following Lesotho's recognition of Taiwan in April 1990, China "severed" ties with Lesotho.
9. **Liberia** recognized China in February 1977 and maintained relations until October 1989. Following Liberia's recognition of Taiwan in October 1989, China "suspended" relations with Liberia.
10. **Nicaragua** switched recognition from Taiwan to China in December 1985 and maintained relations with China until November 1990. Following Nicaragua's resumption of relations with Taiwan in November 1990, China "suspended" ties with Nicaragua.
11. **Niger** recognized China in July 1974 and maintained relations until July 1992. Following Niger's recognition of Taiwan in July 1992, China suspended relations with Niger.

C. Nations maintaining diplomatic relations with Taiwan (29)

| | |
|--------------------------|---------------|
| Bahamas, The | El Salvador |
| Belize | Grenada |
| Central African Republic | Guatemala |
| Costa Rica ¹⁹ | Guinea-Bissau |
| Dominica | Haiti |
| Dominican Republic | Holy See |

¹⁹ The official Chinese Xinhua News Agency has had an office in Costa Rica since April 1979.

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- 7 -

Honduras

Lesotho

Liberia

Malawi

Nauru

Nicaragua

Niger

Panama²⁰

Paraguay

Saint Kitts and Nevis

Saint Lucia

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines

Solomon Islands²¹

South Africa

Swaziland

Tonga

Tuvalu

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²⁰ China's Xinhua News Agency has had an office in Panama since May 1973.

²¹ Taiwan upgraded its mission in the Solomon Islands from Consulate General to Embassy on September 16, 1985.